

(b) The closure of a sugar mill may be due to a variety of factors, such as inadequate cane availability, uneconomic size, old and obsolete plant and machinery, technical and managerial problems, financial constraints etc. Sugar mills have themselves to prepare schemes for rehabilitation/modernisation and get them approved by the concerned institutions. Financial assistance is also available from the Sugar Development Fund (SDF) at concessional rate of interest for such rehabilitation/modernisation scheme, subject to their fulfilling the conditions laid down.

[Translation]

Foreign visits by Minister and Officers

3276. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign visits made by the Minister as well as the officers of his Ministry to boost tourism in the country during the last two years;

(b) the total expenditure incurred on these foreign visits, year-wise; and

(c) the percentage in terms of the targets likely to be achieved as a result of these visits?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b). Necessary information is given as under:-

Year	No. of foreign visits undertaken	Total estimated expenditure	
		Minister of Civil Aviation & Tourism and Minister of State for Tourism	Officers Rs. in lakhs
1994-95	7	13	29.51
1995-96	4	13	16.11

Some of the above mentioned visits were to participate in specialised International travel marts/tourism faire such as World Travel Mart in London, ITB in Berlin, etc.

(c) It is not possible to allocate what percentage of the target is expected to be achieved as a result of such visits since promotion of tourism in the overseas tourist generating markets is a continuous process. While tourist promotion campaigns undertaken by the Minister and the officers create lot of positive image of the country in the overseas media and travel trade, the other factors that contribute to boost foreign tourist traffic are advertising and publicity, familiarisation tours to India by foreign travel agents, tour

operators, journalists, TV teams, holding of fairs and festivals, public relations etc.

The increase in the tourist traffic achieved during the last 2 years is as follows:-

1994-95	+1.9%
1995-96	+14.8%

Salary and other facilities to the staff of ITDC

3277. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN *alias* PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the salary and other facilities of the staff of India Tourism Development Corporation situated at Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi are less than the other staff members of this Department;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the equal pay scales and other facilities are likely to be provided to these employees?

THE MINISTER FOR PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) and (b). The cafeteria at the National Media Centre, Shastri Bhawan New Delhi has been given on contract basis to ITDC by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting on a no profit and no loss basis. The contract is valid upto 23.8.1997. To operate this cafeteria, the employees were recruited by ITDC on contract basis on a consolidated salary and are being provided other facilities as per their terms of appointment.

(c) As the operations are not run on a commercial basis, the question of providing equal pay scales and other facilities to these employees does not arise.

[English]

Deletion of Scheduled Broadcasting of Election

3278. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the election broadcast/telecast by Bhartiya Janta Party were aborted due to refusal of the Doordarshan and All India Radio because of the use of the words Vande Mataram and Jai Shri Ram during the last elections in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the rationale behind this decision; and

(c) the action taken against the defaulting officers?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c). No election broadcast/telecast by any political party in Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh was refused because of the use of the word "Vande Mataram". The election broadcast by Bhartiya Janata Party from AIR, Jaipur did not materialise as the Election Commission of India did not permit the use of words "Jai Shri Ram" in the script submitted by BJP. Similarly, the election telecast/broadcast by BJP from Doordarshan Kendra and All India Radio, Lucknow could not take place as the script contained certain references which in the opinion of the Election Commission were not in the interest of national unity or the conduct of free and fair election. The Election Commission advised for modification/deletion of these portions before telecast/broadcast which were not accepted by the State Unit of Bhartiya Janta Party.

Anti-Social activities in Mahila Ashram, Kanpur

3279. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the fact that Mahila Ashram, Kanpur is indulging in anti-social activities viz. inadequate food to inmates, non-payment of money of the Tailoring and Knitting works by inmates, fake and false marriages of inmates, 90% of the dowry amount is retained by Ashram Authorities, selling of babies of inmates on the pretext of adoption and selling of young girls to either old persons or Rickshaw Pullers on the name of fake marriages;

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been conducted;

(c) if so, the findings of the enquiry; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) to (d). The Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Irregularities in Wakf Board, West Bengal

3280. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:
SHRI E. AHAMED:
SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the serious irregularities and malpractices in the functioning of the Wakf Board and misappropriation of development funds for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and fraudulent transfers in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details of the alleged irregularities and malpractices;

(c) whether the Union Government have taken note of the report of P.K. Sengupta placed on the Table of the West Bengal Legislature;

(d) if so, the main findings of the report; and

(e) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): (a) to (e). The Government of West Bengal has confirmed receipt of complaints regarding the functioning of Wakf Board in West Bengal and institution of a departmental enquiry to look into them. But the report of the departmental enquiry has not been received from the Government of West Bengal although, there have been references in the Press of such report and discussion of the matter in the State Legislative Assembly. As regards misappropriation of development funds for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and fraudulent transfers in West Bengal, the Union Government has not come across any such case.

Amendment of Control of Future Trading Act

3281. SHRI SARAT PATTANYAK: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to amend the Control Future Trading the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952 (74 of 1952) and the Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1952 (12 of 1950);

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the time by which these Acts likely to be amended?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c). An Expert Committee appointed by the Government under the Chairmanship of Prof. Kamal Nayan Kabra to review the working of the Forward Markets in India and make recommendations including Amendments to the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952 (74 of 1952), in its report submitted in September, 1994 has, *inter-alia*, recommended some amendments to the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act. The Government is yet to take a view on the Committee's recommendations pertaining to the amendments to the Act.

There is no proposal at present before the Government to amend the Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950. However, a three-member official committee has been constituted to review the entire Act of 1950.

Construction of Private Godowns

3282. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state: